

DDI- 05678-85

14 NOV 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Executive Director

FROM: Robert M. Gates  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from Mr. Anthony J. Calio,  
Administrator of NOAA, Concerning Designation  
of Reciprocating Seabed Mining States

1. Action Requested: Your signature on the attached letter to Mr. Anthony J. Calio, Administrator of NOAA, acknowledging receipt of his recent letter concerning the designation of Italy as a reciprocating seabed mining state.

2. Background: The Deep Seabed Hard Minerals Resources Act, signed into law in June 1980, provides a legal framework for US citizens to mine the deep seabed outside the authority of the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, which declares seabed minerals the common heritage of mankind and claims full control over their exploitation. The Act also authorizes the Administrator of NOAA, in consultation with other Federal agencies, to designate as reciprocating seabed mining states other nations with seabed mining legislation compatible with that of the United States. Such legislation would provide for the regulation of seabed miners, recognition of mining authorizations issued by the United States, and the proscription of interference in other countries' high seas freedoms. This done, the Department of State and NOAA are then authorized to negotiate agreements with reciprocating states to provide for mutual recognition of mining licenses, resolution of disputes, and cooperation in other aspects of seabed mining.

3. In September 1984, the Administrator of NOAA designated the United Kingdom, Japan, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany reciprocating states, informing you by letter of his intention to do so in July 1984. The attached letter from the NOAA Administrator informs you of his intention to designate Italy, which has recently enacted seabed mining legislation, a reciprocating state.

[Redacted Signature Box]

Robert M. Gates

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